

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as process of making and product made under M.P.E.P. §806.05(f) and that the product, as claimed, can be made by a materially different process, such as coextrusion or casting a solution/dispersion of the tetrafluoroethylene/ethylene copolymer onto a polyester substrate, followed by a drying step.

However, it can be seen that Claim 13 clearly encompasses coextrusion as a method of forming the product of Group I. Further, the Examiner has not set forth any reasons to support the assertion that casting of a solution/dispersion of the tetrafluoroethylene/ethylene copolymer onto a polyester substrate, followed by a drying step, would result in the laminated carrier film described in the claims of Group I. It is clear that the casting process would only result in a coated film, which is seen to be different from a laminated film.

Since the requirements of M.P.E.P. §806.05(f) have not been met, it is requested that the claims of Groups I and II be rejoined and examined in the present application.

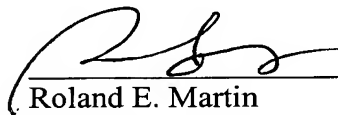
Further, if the claims of Group I are ultimately found allowable, it is requested that the claims of Group II be rejoined under M.P.E.P. §821.04 and allowed in the present application, also.

Finally, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that thousands of U.S. patents have issued in which many more than two subclasses have been searched, and the Patent and Trademark Office cannot reasonably assert that a burden exists in searching only two subclasses.

Accordingly, for the reasons presented above, it is submitted that the Patent and Trademark Office has failed to meet the burden necessary to sustain the restriction requirement. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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